

Los Angeles Advocacy Council

August 2018

Proposed New Members (*click link for bio*):

- [Johnathan Williams](#)
- [Carrie Wagner](#)
- [Natasha Barriga](#)
- [Richard Thomas](#)
- [Arina Goldring](#)

Johnathan Williams

Founder & CEO, The Accelerated Schools

Mr. Johnathan Williams is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of The Accelerated Schools. Under his leadership, The Accelerated Schools—in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), California State University, Los Angeles, along with foundations and corporate supporters—completed construction of a \$50-million dollar comprehensive pre-K—12th grade school complex in 2003. This model public/private partnership charter school dramatically changed educational opportunities for the South Central Los Angeles community and served as a catalyst for the growth of charter schools regionally and nationally. In 1994, The Accelerated School was distinguished as the first charter school in South Central Los Angeles, and in 2001 was the first charter school in California to be recognized by TIME Magazine as “Elementary School of the Year.”

The Accelerated Schools have since served as a community service facility including an on-site health clinic and fitness center. Mr. Williams has also served as a regional and national spokesperson for the charter schools movement and received commendations from former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Mr. Williams is also a founding board member of several state and national support organizations including the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS). He was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the California State Board of Education (2004-2011), and was appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to the LA City Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners and to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission in 2011. Mr. Williams also currently serves on the National Advisory Board for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and is a lifetime member of the Black Alliance for Educational Options.

Carrie Wagner

Founder & Executive Director, The Girls Athletic Leadership School Los Angeles (GALS)

Carrie Wagner, Executive Director, GALS LA, believes that learning can be joyful as well as academically rigorous. She believes in a holistic approach to education where the student opens up to their own unique talents and skills and gain confidence in who they are as a person. This then creates a launching pad that allows students to make even further strides academically. A product of all girls' education, Carrie is passionate that single gender schools empower students to use their voice, lead confidently and develop strong bonds with their community.

Carrie has been in the charter school movement since 2003. Carrie was recently the COO of Bright Star Schools, which is a charter management organization that operates high performing schools in Los Angeles. Prior to this, she spent 9 years at ExED, a leading nonprofit provider of charter school management services, where she served as President and COO. Carrie has also worked as the Social Enterprise Manager for New Directions, Inc., a nonprofit organization assisting homeless veterans, and in corporate finance at Heller Financial. Carrie is a Certified Public Accountant with experience at PriceWaterhouseCoopers as a Senior Accountant in the audit division. She earned an M.B.A. from The Anderson School at UCLA and a B.S. in Accountancy and Computer Applications from The University of Notre Dame. Carrie recently received her M.A. in Spiritual Psychology from The University of Santa Monica.

Natasha Barriga

Founder & Head of School, Resolute Academy

Natasha Barriga is the Founder and Head of School for Resolute Academy. She attended Loyola Marymount University, which nurtured and supported her vision of academic success and service to the community. While at Loyola Marymount, she earned a BA Literature and a Secondary Teaching Credential, has a clear California Teaching Credential, and completed her Tier One California Administrative Credential in December, 2013.

During the 2012-2013 year, Ms. Barriga-Siperstein was a Fellow with the nationally recognized organization Building Excellent Schools (BES). Through the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, Ms. Barriga-Siperstein has had the opportunity to study the design and operation of the nation's top performing charter schools to bring best practices to Resolute Academy.

Richard Thomas

Executive Director & Principal, New Horizons Charter Academy

School Leadership Experience:**Executive Director/Principal K-8 Charter**

New Horizons Charter Academy

Jul 2014 – Present

North Hollywood

High School Principal

Los Angeles Leadership Academy Charter High School

Jul 2013 – Jun 2014

Lincoln Heights

Principal/Director of 5 Alternative High Schools

Santa Ana Unified School District

Sep 2012 – Jun 2013

Santa Ana

Assistant Principal

Alliance Technology, Math and Science High School

Jul 2011 – Sep 2012

Glassell Park, LA

Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Principal of Temescal Academy

Palisades Charter High School and Temescal Academy

Jul 2009 – Jun 2011

Pacific Palisades

Assistant Principal of Curriculum/Instruction, Facilities, Athletics and Discipline

Bear Creek High School

Sep 2005 – Jan 2009

Previous Experience as Chief Financial Officer/Senior Auditor**Education:**

Master of Arts in School Administration, California State University

Professional Clear Administrative Services Credential, Loyola Marymount University

Preliminary Administrative Services Credential, California State University

Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential, California State University

Bachelor of Science Degree, California State University (Major: Business Administration, Concentration: Accounting)

Associate of Science Degree, Merced Junior College (Major: Business Administration)

High School Diploma, General H.H. Arnold High School, Wiesbaden, West Germany

Arina A. Goldring-Ravin

Experience

September 2014-Present **Los Angeles Leadership Academy, Lincoln Heights, CA**
CEO/Superintendent K-12/Board President of the LA Leadership Foundation

- Provide leadership and guidance to the Leadership Team Members and Board of Directors
- Lead WASC Accreditation Process, LAUSD Charter Petition Renewals, LAUSD Charter Oversight Visits, LCAP Development
- Manage Collective Bargaining Process with CTA
- Ensure compliance with all applicable charter school laws and regulations
- Manage school finances and human resources according to the Board approved policies
- Implement various plans to increase student achievement K-12
- Participate in ongoing professional development through CCSA, ACSA, LACOE, and ASCD
- Organize and led fundraising campaigns

August 2012-September 2014 **Montague Charter Academy, Pacoima CA**
Executive Director

- Worked collaboratively with the Board of Directors on an implementation of the board policies.
- Ensured that frameworks and practices are in place to ensure regular cycles of long- range strategic planning and annual goal setting that incorporated data on student performance and stakeholders feedback.
- Worked with staff, budget committee, and Board to prepare budgets, monitor progress, and initiate changes as appropriate.
- Assumed responsibility for professional development through membership in ACSA, ASCD, and CCSA, and participation in the affairs of professional organizations.
- Negotiated collective bargaining agreements.
- Led staff development sessions on Common Core Standards, SIOP Model for English Language Learners, and Differentiated Instruction.
- Ensured compliance with relevant workplace and employment laws.
- Developed and implemented evaluation process for all employees.
- Ensured processes are in place to assess organizational performance and to support planning for ongoing school improvement.
- Promoted a climate of professional collegiality and respect.
- Organized successful LAUSD Charter Division oversight visits and maintained ongoing communication with the Charter Division Office.
- Promoted effective communication between parents and the school and encouraged Parent participation in decision making.

September 2008-September 2012 **Ivy Academia Entrepreneurial Charter School, Woodland Hills, CA**
Upper Elementary and Middle School Principal

- Facilitated the development, articulation, implementation, and stewardship of a vision of learning that I shared and supported by the school community.
- Advocated, nurtured, and sustained a school culture and instructional program conducive to student learning and staff professional growth.
- Ensured management of the organization, operations, and resources for a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment.
- Collaborated with families and community members, responded to diverse community interests and needs, and mobilized community resources.
- Developed entrepreneurial program for students and professional development for teachers.
- Led our school to WASC accreditation and charter renewal.

September 2004-2008 **Ivy Academia Entrepreneurial Charter School, Woodland Hills, CA**
Fifth Grade Teacher/Summer Program Coordinator/Director/Fundraising Committee Member/Director of the Entrepreneurial Education Department

- Created and implemented fifth grade lesson plans and student assessment in conjunction with state learning regulations.
- Planned instructions to interest and meet needs of students of all ability levels.
- Implemented class and individual behavior management programs.
- Identified, counseled and sought assistance for students with learning disabilities and behavior problems.
- Attended professional development seminars and team meetings.
- Regularly communicated with parents to acknowledge superior work and problem areas.
- Coordinated fifth grade culmination, field trips, extracurricular activities, and school fundraisers.
- Tutored fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students in English, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, History, Science.
- Designed and coordinated academic summer program.
- Actively participated in school fundraisers and special events.
- Coordinated professional development for teachers on how to integrate 21st Century skills into their instruction.

August 2003–June 2004

Page Private School, Beverly Hills, CA

Third Grade Teacher / Special Events Coordinator

- Facilitated the learning of Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies through student centered lessons and activities.
- Identified, counseled and sought assistance for a student with a learning disability and behavior problems.
- Actively participated in team meetings on curriculum and test design, as well as alternative assessment.
- Organized and coordinated Scholastic Book Fairs and Fundraisers.
- Tutored students seeking additional guidance with course work.
- Chaperoned field trips and school events.

2001–2003

Kids Connection Elementary, Foster City, CA

Fourth Grade Teacher

- Created and implemented fourth grade lesson plans and student assessment in conjunction with state learning regulations.
- Planned instructions to interest and meet needs of students of all ability levels.
- Implemented class and individual behavior management programs.
- Attended professional development seminars and team meetings.
- Regularly communicated with parents to acknowledge superior work and problem areas.
- Tutored fourth and fifth grade students in all subject areas.

1997–2001

Fountain Day School, Los Angeles, CA

Teacher Assistant /Fourth Grade Teacher

- Designed and implemented cross-curricular unit lessons.
- Generated all lesson planning, attendance, grade records, exam design and administration.
- Actively participated in faculty meetings regarding curriculum redesign.
- Attended an Open Court Teacher's Training Seminar.
- Incorporated multi-cultural education ideas.

1995–1997

Rosewood Elementary School, Los Angeles, CA

Teacher Assistant

- Supervised children in the classroom and on the playground.
- Guided students who had special needs and required extra help.
- Tutored English to Russian native speakers to improve communication skills.
- Directed International Day.
- Performed duties of a Summer Camp Counselor.

Education and Credentials

- B.A., Degree in Child Development with Multiple Subject Credential Concentration ☹
- Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential
- Clear Administrative Services Credential with MA in Instructional Leadership
- Nationally Certified Superintendent

Languages

Bilingual (English, Russian)